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The plague figures for the decennial period 1897 to 1906 exhibit for the whole of India an appalling number of deaths. The epidemic commenced in October, 1896, and up to the end of that year the deaths numbered 1,704. The mortality increased during the next 3 years, the deaths in 1897 having been 56,000; in 1898, 118,000, and in 1899, 136,000.

The mortality then decreased and the deaths were only 93,000 in 1900. This decrease proved to be only temporary, and for the next 4 years there occurred a large annual increase, the deaths having numbered 274,000 in 1901, 577,000 in 1902, 851,000 in 1903, and 1,022,000 in 1904, which was the year of greatest prevalence.

There was a small decrease in 1905, the deaths falling to 951,000, and a large decrease in 1906, when the deaths were only 332,000. The total deaths for the whole period October, 1896, to December, 1906, numbered 4,411,704.

The improvement which was shown in the 2 years, 1905 and 1906, led many to believe that the present year would see another material reduction in the number of deaths. But the improvement has not been maintained, as during the first three months and a half of 1907 the deaths throughout India totaled 495,000, which is the heaviest mortality yet reported during the epidemic.

From the first appearance of the disease up to the year 1901, the mortality was greatest in the Bombay Presidency, but from 1902 onward, with one exception, the worst area has been the Punjab, and in 1905 the deaths in the latter province alone numbered 364,625.

It is now fairly established that the rat and the rat flea are not only the principal but, for all practical purposes, the only disseminators of plague. The crusade against rats has not, however, proved a success owing to the prejudices of the people. Instead of joining in the campaign for destroying rats, there are natives who feed the rodents and allow them to go about with impunity and propagate freely.

By laborious and thorough experiments it has been proved beyond all shadow of doubt that inoculation minimizes the destructive efforts of plague, and that it is practically the only safe protection against its ravages, but little progress has been made in inducing the native population to take advantage of this method. Even among the European population inoculation has not as yet become popular.

Reports from Calcutta—Transactions of Service—Cholera, plague, and smallpox—Increase of plague.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, May 2:

Week ended April 27, 1907. Bill of health issued to the steamship *Rabenfels*, bound for Boston and New York with a total crew of 63. The usual precautions were taken, holds fumigated, rat guards placed on wharf lines and Asiatics effects disinfected.

Week ended April 20, 1907. Fifty-five deaths from cholera, 324 from plague, and 65 from smallpox.

In Bengal and India, week ended April 20, 1907, 6,073 cases and 5,955 deaths, and 86,991 cases and 76,647 deaths from plague, respectively.